to farmers at the revised price in anticipation of an impending proposal to increase its statutory issue price, sales by manufacturers were temporarily suspended with effect from 19.2.97. This restriction was lifted with effect from 21.2.97 consequent upon the 10% increase in price of urea.

(c) On a projected Consumption of 210 LMT in 1997-98, the estimated saving in urea subsidy would be nearly Rs. 714 crores.

Ban of Militant Groups

3665. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Tripura has requested for a ban on the major militant groups;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) The Government of Tripura has requested for a ban on two major insurgent groups. The matter is under active consideration.

Prices of Essential Commodities

3666. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to supply the essential commodities of mass consumption at uniform prices throughout the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Under the existing Public Distribution System the Central Government procures and supplies six essential commodities of mass consumption viz. Wheat, rice, levy sugar, imported edible oils, kerosene and soft coke to the State Governments/UTs for distribution at uniform prices throughout the country. These commodities are made available at fixed Central Issue Prices which are determined by the Central Government from time to time.

Imbalance Application of N.P.K. Nutrients

3667. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the increasing imbalance in the application of N.P. and K Nutrients to the soils is being accepted all over;

(b) if so, the actual consumption of N.P. and K during the Kharif and the Rabi crops of 1996-97;

(c) the details of the demand for N.P. and K for the 1996-97 crops, State-wise;

(d) the actual supply made to the States; and

(e) the steps being taken to achieve the targeted production in the agriculture sector?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes Sir, after the decontrol of phosphatic and potassic fertilisers, the N.P.K. ratio has widened.

(b) The estimated consumption of N.P.K. during Kharif and Rabi 1996-97 is as follows :

Lakh tonnes

	N	P	K	Total
Kharif 96	53.74	16.02	6.63	76.39
Rabi 96-97	58.74	21.07	8.02	87.83
Total (1996-97)	112.48	37.09	14.65	164.22

(c) After decontrol of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers, the demand of only urea for various States is assessed. The State-wise information is given in the Statement-I.

(d) After decontrol of phosphatic and potassic fertilizer, information on supply of only urea is available. The State-wise information on supply of urea is given in the Statement-II.

(e) Ministry of Agriculture is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Cereal Development Programme (ICDPs) for crops like rice, wheat and coarse cereals for propagation of crop production technologies through field demonstrations, integrated pest management demonstrations, training of farmers assistance on distribution of certified seeds and improved farm implements and award to gram panchayats for increasing production through integrated and balanced use of nutrients. Other programmes under implementation are Intensive Cotton Development Programme, sustainable Development Programme of sugarcane based cropping system and special jute Development Programme. The scheme for concession on sale of phosphatic and potassic fertiliser is also under implementation to improve the balanced nutrient application. In addition, promotion of micro nutrients, organic manure and bio fertilizer are ensured through the scheme on balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilisers and technology mission and National Project on Dev. and use of bio-fertilizers.